



Parish Newsletter - August 27th 2017

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Parish Priest – Fr Gary Jones gary.jones@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Administration: Mrs Leah Monaghan

St Michael's Parish Primary School- Principal: Mr Ethan Corfee

St. Joseph's Church Blampied

No Masses at St Joseph's – at the moment

Diocesan Website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

RECENT DEATHS: Alan Hall (Creswick) Rita Madden, Laurie McCartin

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH: Gertrude Dwyer, Helen Paton, Ena O'Brien, Carmel Barron, Betty O'Shannessy, Philip Wooller, Aileen Slater, Nancy Hill, Therese Lane, Catherine Kilmartin, Massimo Clohesy

Prayers for Sick: Gary Eyles



REFLECTION by Greg Sunter



Gospel Reflection

Like last week's gospel, this week's story takes place in a region that was outside predominantly Jewish territory. Caesarea Philippi (north of Galilee and in the region of modern day Syria) had long been a centre of pagan worship. It was used originally by the Canaanites as a site of worship; the Greeks built a temple to one of their gods there; in 20 BCE Herod the Great built a temple to Caesar Augustus; and after his death, Herod's son, Phillip, renamed the city Caesarea Phillipi after Tiberius Caesar and himself. It is intriguing that Matthew's gospel chooses such a site as the location for such a significant revelation of faith.

Jesus asks the disciples who people say he is. They report that people associate Jesus with one of the great prophets of Jewish tradition. By people identifying Jesus with other great prophets they were projecting Jesus into the same mould as that prophet. What they were saying was that Jesus will be a great leader in the style of John the Baptist, or Elijah or even Jeremiah. The expectation of a messiah was running very high at the time of Jesus and everyone had their own idea about what that messiah would be like – usually aligned with some previous leader. They didn't seem to understand that Jesus was breaking the mould and was not going to fit in with any of those expectations. To see him as one of the great prophets come again is always going to be an inadequate understanding of Jesus as messiah.

When Jesus pushes the disciples for their own ideas, it is Simon Peter who speaks up and identifies Jesus as being the Son of the living God. Making a play on Peter's name (in Greek, petros = Peter and petra = rock), Jesus states that hereafter, Simon Peter will be known as Peter and upon the rock of his profession of faith the church will be built.

Have you thought? What's in a name?

On many occasions in the Bible a character is given, or takes on, a new name when they take on a new role or move to a new level in their faith and relationship with God. Abram became Abraham; Sarai became Sarah; Jacob became Israel; and Saul became Paul. In all of these circumstances the person took on a new name to reflect their new relationship with God. This tradition has continued right to this day. Men and women entering religious life have traditionally taken on a new name to indicate the new life they are entering. When Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger became pope he took on the name Benedict to indicate the new role and the new life he was beginning.

Living the Gospel ... Who do YOU say I am?

The question that Jesus asks the disciples is a question he asks of all of us. How we answer that question reflects our relationship with Jesus. But more importantly, how we answer that question reflects the way we live our life in response to who we believe Jesus to be. If we truly say that we believe in Jesus as the son of God, then how do we live our lives in such a way that we act on that belief? The gospel shows us that an inadequate answer to that question leads to missing the point of all that Jesus is.



Last Week's Collections: *Two collections are presented after the Prayers of the Faithful. The 1st Collection is cash toward the Presbytery for the sustenance of our Priest – with a contribution of 13% to provide support for our retired priests and the Diocese. The 2nd Collection is the Planned Giving (envelopes) or cash for the administration of the Parish & general running costs*

1st Collection \$186.10 2nd Collection \$142.90

BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

Collection for Sick and Retired Priests – September 3rd

Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can all participate. Eighteen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation.

The funding required for these commitments is ongoing. Thanks to your generosity, this collection has raised nearly 1.8 million dollars since it began in 1991, including nearly \$60,000 last year. Along with the priests' own contribution of approximately \$37,000 per year, this annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our sick and retired clergy.

A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED FOR US – THE CHURCH COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY



Are you a former student of Assumption College? If so, Alumni Development Officer Maria Cleave would like to hear from you, Assumption College will celebrate its 125th Anniversary in 2018 and there are many events being planned for former students. Please phone Maria on 5783 5343 or email:



maria.cleave@assumption.vic.edu.au

World Day of Migrants and Refugees

Pope Francis issues a vibrant call in favour of Child migrants and several Bishops conferences in Europe have launched statements and initiatives to encourage Christians and political leaders to act.

The Call of Pope Francis More and more children are crossing borders on their own. Child migrants travelling alone are among those at the highest risk of exploitation and abuse, including by smugglers and traffickers. *“Everyone should take care of the young, who in a threefold way are defenceless: they are children, they are foreigners, and they have no means to protect themselves”*. This is the Message of Pope Francis for the 2017 World Day of Migrants and Refugees. In his Message, Pope Francis invites to work *“towards protection, integration and long-term solutions,”* and also, *“to deal with the causes which trigger migrations in the countries of origin”*.



Sunday September 3rd

Reader: B Arnell **Commentator:** M Yanner **Offertory:** Bolton Family **Ministers:** M Phypers, L Righetti, T Tinetti **Sacristan:** Carol

Counters: Aug 27 (Team 6) F & K Stephens, T Torpy, V & M Richards
Sept 3rd (Team 7) W Chamberlain, S Whiffin

Weekday Masses: Creswick—Funeral of Alan Hall

10am Thursday Daylesford (in Dining Room) 10am Friday (Parish Centre)